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December
22, 2017

Today's Wind & Solar Energy News will not publish during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. It resumes on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's!

World's Top Wind Turbine Maker, Vestas, Pleased With Final U.S. Tax Law

By Stine Jacobsen and Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen, Reuters • • Posted 2017-12-22 04:44:33

Denmark's Vestas, the world's top wind turbine maker, said on Thursday it was pleased the final U.S. tax bill retained production tax credits for wind energy projects, after concerns over the bill had sliced almost a quarter off its share price. Earlier versions of the bill would have removed the credits, a move that the renewable energy industry said would threaten \$50 billion (£37.4 billion) in planned investment in wind energy projects in the United States. [[read more ...](#)]

The GOP tax plan is a windfall for oil and gas industry

By Dino Grandoni, Washington Post • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:28:08

The renewable energy industry fended off potentially damaging proposals that were originally in the House bill but were omitted from the final version. In the end, production and investment tax credits and the \$7,500 per car electric-vehicle credit went unscathed. [[read more ...](#)]

A Holiday Christmas Present!

By Anthony Adragna, Politico • • Posted 2017-12-22 04:45:13

The Senate Finance Committee gave out special interest holiday gifts Wednesday in the form of a bill that will revive, extend or expand just about every energy credit anyone ever lobbied for. Tax writers didn't do a bunch of creative heavy lifting, since they mostly changed the end dates for credits that were gone. [[read more ...](#)]

Industry in holding pattern as FERC rulemaking lags

Sam Mintz, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:29:11

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is lagging on a rulemaking for the energy storage industry, leaving companies uncertain of how to proceed with rapid changes in technology. In its notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) in November 2016, FERC said the rule would “more effectively integrate electric storage resources into organized wholesale markets to enhance competition and help ensure that these markets produce just and reasonable rates.” [[read more ...](#)]

Offshore wind advances in wake of Cape Wind’s death

Benjamin Storrow, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:24:59

In Massachusetts, the failure of a controversial offshore wind project is being supplanted by plans for even bigger turbines in the water. Earlier this month, the developer of Cape Wind, a controversial wind project off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard, announced it was pulling the plug on a proposal that had generated more than a decade of squabbling among state lawmakers, utilities and landowners. Then yesterday, Massachusetts regulators announced they had received bids from three developers for projects that would dwarf Cape Wind. Only this time, the proposals were met with cheers. [[read more ...](#)]

3 competing offshore wind developers submit bids to produce electricity for Massachusetts utilities in Clean Energy RFP

By Mary C. Serreze, Mass Live • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:25:28

Three offshore wind partnerships have submitted competing bids to a public-private evaluation team, each hoping to score long-term power contracts with the state’s electrical utilities. The Massachusetts Clean Energy RFP, created under the state’s 2016 Act to Promote Energy Diversity, makes utilities procure 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind power over the next decade, with the caveat that contracts be cost-effective. The solicitation was issued June 29, and state and utility evaluators, with independent oversight, will choose the first-round winner in March. [[read more ...](#)]

Exports, Perry plan may not be enough to save Murray

Dylan Brown and Hannah Northey, E&E News reporters • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:30:03

Murray Energy Corp. CEO Robert Murray has for months lobbied the Trump administration to prop up struggling coal plants, warning of an unstable grid that could leave poor families “freezing in the dark.” And yet the outspoken coal executive is also pivoting to markets in Europe and India as a firewall against bankruptcy — a move that has failed to save other companies and analysts say is fraught with its own pitfalls. [[read more ...](#)]

France bans fracking and oil extraction in all of its territories

By Agence France-Presse • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:26:11

France’s parliament has passed into law a ban on producing oil and gas by 2040, a largely symbolic gesture as the country is 99% dependent on hydrocarbon imports. In Tuesday’s vote by show of hands, only the rightwing Republicans party opposed, while leftwing lawmakers abstained. No new permits will be granted to extract fossil fuels and no existing licences will be renewed beyond 2040, when all production in mainland France and its

overseas territories will stop. [[read more ...](#)]

Trump says opening ANWR is 'a big, big deal'

Zack Colman, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:26:45

President Trump celebrated a major energy win today when Republicans approved opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration. "But I will tell you, ANWR is a big, big deal. It's not ever mentioned by the press, and that was fine until now. Now you can mention it," Trump said. "So we're going to have tremendous energy coming out of that part of the world. And people have wanted to do it for 40 years." [[read more ...](#)]

Ex-Industry Lobbyists Win Top Jobs in Agencies They Once Fought

By Jennifer A Dlouhy and Jesse Hamilton, Bloomberg • • Posted 2017-12-22 06:30:19

Less well known — and potentially more impactful — are the former industry advocates who are now shaping policy behind the scenes in lower levels of the federal government. Trump has placed them in regulatory roles across the bureaucracy, often in charge of the very same policies they sought to influence for previous clients and employers, according to a review by Bloomberg News. There's a former mining executive in charge of mine safety, a chemical industry representative writing chemical safety rules and a career banker whose prior company was sanctioned by the agency he has now taken over: the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. [[read more ...](#)]

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